

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 611**

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**Introduced by Senator Correa**

February 27, 2009

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An act to amend Section 69434 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 611, as amended, Correa. Student financial aid: Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards: veterans.

Existing law, the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, establishes the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards, the Cal Grant C Awards, and the Cal Grant T Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. With respect to the Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards, the act requires that they be used only for tuition or student fees, or both, in a for-credit instructional program with a length of not less than 2 academic years.

This bill would authorize a student whose tuition or fees, or both, are paid in full by veterans' educational benefits pursuant to the federal ~~Montgomery GI Bill~~ *Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008* to use a Cal Grant A Entitlement Award for access costs, as defined to mean living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies, and books, not to exceed that student's financial need.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 69434 of the Education Code is amended to read:

69434. (a) Commencing with the 2001–02 academic year, and each academic year thereafter, a Cal Grant A award shall be used only for tuition or student fees, or both, except as provided in subdivision (d), in a for-credit instructional program with a length of not less than two academic years. Each student who meets the Cal Grant A qualifications as set forth in this article shall be guaranteed an award. The amount of any individual award is dependent on the cost of tuition or fees, or both, at the qualifying institution at which the student is enrolled. For each applicant, the award amount shall not exceed the amount of the calculated financial need.

(b) Pursuant to Section 66021.2, any California resident is entitled to a Cal Grant A award, and the commission shall allocate that award, if all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The student has submitted, pursuant to Section 69432.9, a complete financial aid application, submitted or postmarked no later than March 2 of the academic year of high school graduation or its equivalent for the award year immediately following the academic year of high school graduation or its equivalent, or no later than March 2 of the academic year following high school graduation or its equivalent for the second award year following the year of high school graduation or its equivalent.

(2) The student demonstrates financial need pursuant to Section 69433.

(3) The student attains a high school grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale.

(4) The student's household has an income and asset level that does not exceed the level for Cal Grant A recipients set forth in Section 69432.7.

(5) The student is pursuing an undergraduate academic program of not less than two academic years that is offered by a qualifying institution.

(6) The student is enrolled at least part time.

(7) The student meets the general Cal Grant eligibility requirements set forth in Article 1 (commencing with Section 69430).

1 (8) The student graduated from high school or its equivalent  
2 during or after the 2000–01 academic year.

3 (c) A student who meets the Cal Grant A Entitlement Program  
4 criteria specified in this article shall receive a Cal Grant A award  
5 for tuition or fees, or both, pursuant to Section 66021.2.

6 (d) If a student’s tuition or fees, or both, are paid in full by  
7 veterans’ educational benefits pursuant to the federal ~~Montgomery~~  
8 ~~GIBill (38 U.S.C. Sec. 3001 et seq.)~~ *Post 9/11 Veterans Education*  
9 *Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252)*, that student may  
10 use a Cal Grant A award for access costs, not to exceed that  
11 student’s financial need.